Application No.: 09/884,455 2 Novartis Reference: PAT051047-US-CNT05

Mofo Reference: 223002010004

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims:

Claims 1-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A composition comprising a purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 70.

Claims 28-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising a <u>recombinantly expressed</u> purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No: 86.

Claims 32-35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A method for assaying compounds for activity in the presence of the composition against the purified polypeptide of claim 31 comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a solution containing the composition purified polypeptide of claim 31;
- b) contacting said <u>solution</u> purified polypeptide with a candidate inhibitory compound in the presence of said peptide substrate; and
- c) measuring the inhibition of the <u>proteolysis</u> proteolytic activity of said purified polypeptide.